Infantry Battalions of Territorial Army are deployed in Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) While it is not proposed, at this stage, to increase the overall strength of the Territorial Army, certain step regarding restructuring of the organization have been initiated.

Purchase of ALH by Indian Armed Forces

3063. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Armed Forces plan to buy 300 Attack Helicopters (ALH) from HAL to meet their requirement;

(b) if so, whether these helicopters have been designed to meet the specific requirements of the three services; and

(c) if so, what is the timeframe for their induction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Indian Armed Forces plan to buy Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) from HAL and not Attack Helicopter as mentioned in the question. These are designed to meet the specific requirement of the Armed Forces. It is not in the national security interest to disclose further details.

Venkatswami Commission

3064. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed the Venkatswami Commission to prove the issue arising out of the Tehelka Tapes;

(b) if so, whether the terms of reference of the Commission also allows it to give its observation on the responsibility of the then Defence Minister for the use of his official Bungalow for negotiations between Tehelka reporters posing as arms dealers and his top party officials; and

(c) whether the Statement by the Prime Minister that the Commission has not been able to collet evidence against the then Defence Minister amount to making the possible observations of the Commission redundant?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A Statement is attached. (*see* below)

(c) No, Sir.